

Prayer for Blessing of the Animals Sunday

By Patricia Brennan-Alpert and Roberta Sharpe

Gracious God, we thank you for our lives, the lives of friends and family, and for the lives of creatures who share this planet with us. We thank you for the richness variety of animal life: for fish and birds, insects, reptiles, and mammals.

We thank you for the animals who give us faithful companionship, joy when we are happy, and comfort when we are sad. We thank you for animals who feed and clothe us, and give their lives to research.

We thank you for animals who are our partners in daily life and work: guide dogs, rescue and police dogs, animals that pull ploughs, wagons, and sleighs.

We give thanks in the silence of our hearts for your abundant gifts.

SILENCE

Great Spirit, give us humility to thank You for the creation of animals, who can show affection which sometimes puts us to shame. We hear the cry of the animals, and see the sorrow of bird, fish, and beast needlessly suffering and dying to serve our profit or sport or vanity.

Teach us, in your love, sensitivity towards your feeling creation. Strengthen our appreciation of the connectedness of all things. May our response to you bear fruit in a fresh sense of responsibility towards everything you have made.

God who renews us, we pray for all who suffer the pain of sickness, loneliness, fear or loss,

We pray for Pat MacDonald's sister, Lynn, as she faces illness. We pray for Carol Ann's sister - Linda, for Carol Salton, Shelley Finson and for Leni Groesveld. We pray for those whose names are in our hearts,

SILENCE

We pray for those who are in the hearts of others, or known to you alone, that they may receive strength, comfort and courage.

Those things, generous God, that, we, your servants have prayed for, give us grace to work for; and in the purpose of your love, answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes.

Amen.

